(c) and (d) Due to constraint of resources and *inter-se* priority, it has been decided not to consider declaration of any more new national highway for the time being.

**Conversion of Stateway No. 24 as a National Highway in Gujarat**

2718. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of the State Government of Gujarat for conversion of the State Highway No. 24 joining Rajkot-Morvi NH 8A and 8B and to extend up to Navlakhi port (109 Kms.) into National Highway is under consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said highway will be declared as a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Sanctioning of Road and Bridge Projects in Punjab**

2719. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to sanction the important roads and bridges projects and proposed by government of Punjab under E&D programme; and

(b) if so, by when these projects will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. However the correct name of the programme is E. and I.

(b) Does not arise.

**Maintenance of Roads in Punjab**

2720. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the additional roads requested to be declared strategic roads by the State Government of Punjab have been so declared by the Central Government; if not, by when these roads would be declared as strategic roads; and

(b) whether Government has given its consent to the proposal of Government of Punjab to share a major part of the maintenance and upgradation cost of the strategic roads in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (b) No such request has been received. Department of Road Transport and Highways is not concerned with such declaration.

**Reconstruction of Paradeep Port**

2721. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation and reconstruction of Paradeep Port which was extensively damaged due to cyclone;

(b) the details of the damage caused to that port and the progress of work as on date;

(c) the expansion and technological upgradation plan formulated if any for Paradeep Port; and

(d) the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked therefor for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) & (b) : The estimated damage to the Paradeep Port Trust due to cyclone is Rs. 68.5 crores. An amount of Rs. 24.40 crores (approx.) has been spent on immediately reconstruction and rehabilitation works.

(c) & (d) : The expansion and technological upgradation of all Major Ports including Paradeep Port is a continuous process and works are undertaken as per the requirement of traffic and availability of resources. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1200.00 crores has been approved for technological upgradation and development of the Port.

**Enhancement of Road Safety on NH. 5**

2722. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHAI has refused to implement a number of suggestions for road safety in different sectors of National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh;